



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office
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August 7, 2000



In Reply Refer To:
9210 (P)
CA-943

EMS TRANSMISSION: 7/7/2000
Instruction Memorandum No. CA-2000-081
Expiration Date: 09/30/01

To: AFO's

From: State Director

Subject: Fire Situation

As you are aware, the severity of the fire situation has made it necessary for the National Interagency Fire Center to declare Preparedness Level Five. Although this has been done before, it is the first time that so many Geographic Area Coordination Centers have been at or below draw down levels at the same time. The military is also being activated to aid in the suppression efforts since no weather relief is seen for the next 60 days.

California is currently in Preparedness Level Four. However, any large fire activity in the Northern part of the State will push the State into Preparedness Level Five.

I am asking each of you to follow the attached Directors guidance (WO IM No.2000-159) and make all qualified employees available to aid in the effort. This means not just fire fighters, but support personnel as well.

If you have any questions concerning this Instruction Memorandum, please contact Ed Wehking, State Fire Management Officer at (916) 978-4431.

Signed
Al Wright
Acting State Director

Authenticated
AJ Ajitsingh
Records Management

1 Attachment:
WO- IM No. 2000-159 (1 pg)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240
July 27, 2000

In Reply Refer To:
9210 (101) P

EMS TRANSMISSION 7/28/2000
Instruction Memorandum **No. 2000-159**
Expires: 09/30/2001

To: State Directors and Assistant Directors

From: Director

Subject: Fire Situation

Over the last few days, the national fire situation has continued to worsen. Significant large fire activity was reported in virtually every state throughout the West, other than Alaska. This morning, a Preparedness Level V was declared, meaning that virtually all of the usual firefighting resources have been exhausted.

Based on this level of activity and the shortages now being experienced, I am asking that you make all qualified personnel immediately available for fire assignments. I understand this may affect your immediate workload plans, but the current situation is severe enough to temporarily rearrange our priorities and place wildland firefighting as our primary focus within the Bureau. If workload measures are an issue, please contact the appropriate AD.

You will be expected to be able to account for departures from planned performance and workload targets that result from reassigning personnel to fire duties. If reassigning personnel is projected to cause a decline of more than 10% from planned performance and workload measure targets, at the state level by the end of the fiscal year; please notify the Budget Officer as soon as you are aware of this situation. If performance and workload accomplishments decline below planned levels, I expect commensurate reductions in spending. No one should view these savings as a "windfall" or spend these funds without accomplishing the planned work. If reduced spending is projected to result in unobligated balances at the end of the fiscal year, in excess of our current 2% policy limit, please notify the Budget Officer at your earliest convenience.

I also want to express my thanks for all of our firefighting forces for the work they are performing under very difficult circumstances. Remember, the safety of our firefighters and the public always comes first, and no resource is worth risking a life.

I very much appreciate your assistance during this critical time.

Signed by:
Nina Rose Hatfield
Deputy Director

Authenticated by:
Barbara J. Brown
Policy & Records Group, WO-560

Directive forwarded to SD, DSDs, Budget and CA-943 on 7/31/2000